

### Amendments to the Claims

#### Claims 1-15 (**Canceled**)

Claim 16 (**Currently Amended**) A method of setting an audio output level comprising:

- storing a plurality of thresholds associated with clock time information preliminarily;
- selecting one of the plurality of thresholds corresponding to a current clock time;
- requesting an acknowledgement that a setting of the audio output level is to be changed, if the setting of the audio output level is to be changed to a setting that exceeds the selected threshold;
- allocating a function of replying to the acknowledgement to an operation button provided on at least one of a remote control unit and a main unit for a certain period of time immediately after requesting the acknowledgment;
- setting, in a setting unit, the audio output level to the setting that exceeds the selected threshold, if the reply via the operation button is received; and
- setting, in the setting unit, the audio output level to the selected threshold, if a reply via the operation button is not received by expiration of the certain time period.

Claim 17 (**Currently Amended**) A method of setting an audio output level comprising:

- storing a plurality of thresholds associated with audio output device information preliminarily;
- selecting one of the plurality of thresholds corresponding to a currently connected audio output device;
- requesting an acknowledgement that a setting of the audio output level is to be changed, if the setting of the audio output level is to be changed to a setting that exceeds the selected threshold;
- allocating a function of replying to the acknowledgement to an operation button provided on at least one of a remote control unit and a main unit for a certain period of time immediately after requesting the acknowledgment;
- setting, in a setting unit, the audio output level to the setting that exceeds the selected threshold, if the reply via the operation button is received; and

setting, in the setting unit, the audio output level to the selected threshold, if a reply via the operation button is not received by expiration of the certain time period.

Claim 18 (**Previously Presented**) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 16,

wherein each of the plurality of thresholds includes at least one of an upper limit and a lower limit.

Claims 19 and 20 (**Canceled**)

Claim 21 (**Previously Presented**) A device for setting an audio output level, the device comprising:

- a storage unit operable to store a plurality of thresholds associated with clock time information preliminarily;

- a selecting unit operable to select one of the plurality of thresholds corresponding to a current clock time;

- a requesting unit operable to request an acknowledgement that a setting of the audio output level is to be changed, if the setting of the audio output level is to be changed to a setting that exceeds the selected threshold;

- an allocating unit operable to allocate a function of replying to the acknowledgement to an operation button provided on at least one of a remote control unit and a main unit for a certain period of time immediately after requesting the acknowledgement; and

- a setting unit operable to set the audio output level to the setting that exceeds the selected threshold, if the reply via the operation button is received, and set the audio output level to the selected threshold, if a reply via the operation button is not received by expiration of the certain time period.

Claim 22 (**Previously Presented**) The device for setting an audio output level as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

- a changing unit operable to change the setting of the audio output level only if the acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed.

**Claim 23 (Previously Presented)** A device for setting an audio output level, the device comprising:

- a storage unit operable to store a plurality of thresholds associated with audio output device information preliminarily;

- a selecting unit operable to select one of the plurality of thresholds corresponding to a currently connected audio output device;

- a requesting unit operable to request an acknowledgement that a setting of the audio output level is to be changed, if the setting of the audio output level is to be changed to a setting that exceeds the selected threshold;

- an allocating unit operable to allocate a function of replying to the acknowledgement to an operation button provided on at least one of a remote control unit and a main unit for a certain period of time immediately after requesting the acknowledgement; and

- a setting unit operable to set the audio output level to the setting that exceeds the selected threshold, if the reply via the operation button is received, and set the audio output level to the selected threshold, if a reply via the operation button is not received by expiration of the certain time period.

**Claim 24 (Previously Presented)** The device for setting an audio output level as recited in claim 23, further comprising:

- a changing unit operable to change the setting of the audio output level if the acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed.

**Claim 25 (Previously Presented)** The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

- changing the setting of the audio output level only if the acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed.

**Claim 26 (Previously Presented)** The method of setting an audio output level as in recited claim 16, further comprising:

- changing the setting of the audio output level only if an acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed within a given time after the requesting of the acknowledgement.

Claim 27 (**Previously Presented**) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

changing the setting of the audio output level only if the acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed.

Claim 28 (**Previously Presented**) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

changing the setting of the audio output level only if an acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed within a given time after the requesting of the acknowledgement.

Claim 29 (**Previously Presented**) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 17,

wherein each of the plurality of thresholds includes at least one of an upper limit and a lower limit.

Claim 30 (**Previously Presented**) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

ending the setting of the audio output level after the certain period of time expires, if the reply via the operation button is received.

Claim 31 (**Previously Presented**) The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

ending the setting of the audio output level after the certain period of time expires, if the reply via the operation button is received.

Claim 32 (**Previously Presented**) The device for setting an audio output level as recited in claim 21, wherein the setting unit ends the setting of the audio output level after the certain period of time expires, if the reply via the operation button is received.

Claim 33 (**Previously Presented**) The device for setting an audio output level as recited in claim 23, wherein the setting unit ends the setting of the audio output level after the certain period of time expires, if the reply via the operation button is received.